

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Lowell Porter



Office of the State Fire Marshal State Fire Marshal Mary Corso

Captain Fred Fakkema
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
www.wsp.wa.gov

Date February 26, 2004
For Immediate Release
Contact: Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Anjela Foster
(360) 753-0493

State Fire Marshal Releases Findings of Amish Connection Fire Investigation

Chief Lowell Porter announced today that the Office of the State Fire Marshal has released the findings of the fire investigation of the Amish Connection Fire.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal was requested by the City of Toppenish Fire Department to lead the investigation as to origin and cause at an early morning fire on Thursday, February 12th at The Amish Connection, a downtown commercial property located at 105 South Toppenish Avenue, Toppenish.

The 5,000 square foot furniture and home furnishings business was a total loss and the two adjacent businesses, Kraff's Menswear and the 88¢ Store and four apartments above it, incurred extensive smoke and heat damage. Total losses are estimated to approach 2 million dollars.



The fire was determined to be accidental and started at the roof assembly on the business' south side. A roofing contractor had been making repairs to, and installing a new roof over, the existing roof. The contractor's work which had begun on Tuesday the 10th had not been completed.

The fire was reported to 911 at 02:40 by a tenant of the apartments next door. The first arriving Toppenish Fire Department apparatus was on scene at 02:44.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of fire protection systems and school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data. For additional information you may visit our web page at www.wsp.wa.gov and then click on State Fire Marshal.

For more information on fire safety contact you local fire department, or the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (360) 753-0400.

###